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THE FALL MEANDERING

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CENTRAL



ILLINOIS

The Fall Season makes us think of wanting to get outside — to smell the air, feel the leaves, roam with no care and to permanently observe the Indian Summer, either by memory or with a camera.

The Western part of Central Illinois is the Illinois River. A good many miles of it can be observed by taking Illinois Route 100. Some towns are only a few miles from this north to northeast route.

The southwest point on Route 100 is Kampsville (pop. 439). Here is the Harbor House Historic Museum and a (free) Illinois River Ferry. Three miles east at Eldred is the Northwestern University excavation site of 7,000 years of life.

Moving north is Pearl, noted for buttons from river shells.

Moving north is Milton, an Indian site that is the highest point on the Illinois River.

Moving north is LaGrange, locks and dam site.

Moving north is Beardstown, a center for watermelon, fish and fresh fruit; 5 miles is the confluence of the Sangamon River, Sugar Creek and Illinois River.

Moving north is Browning, a scenic bluff area and Sanganois Conservation area.

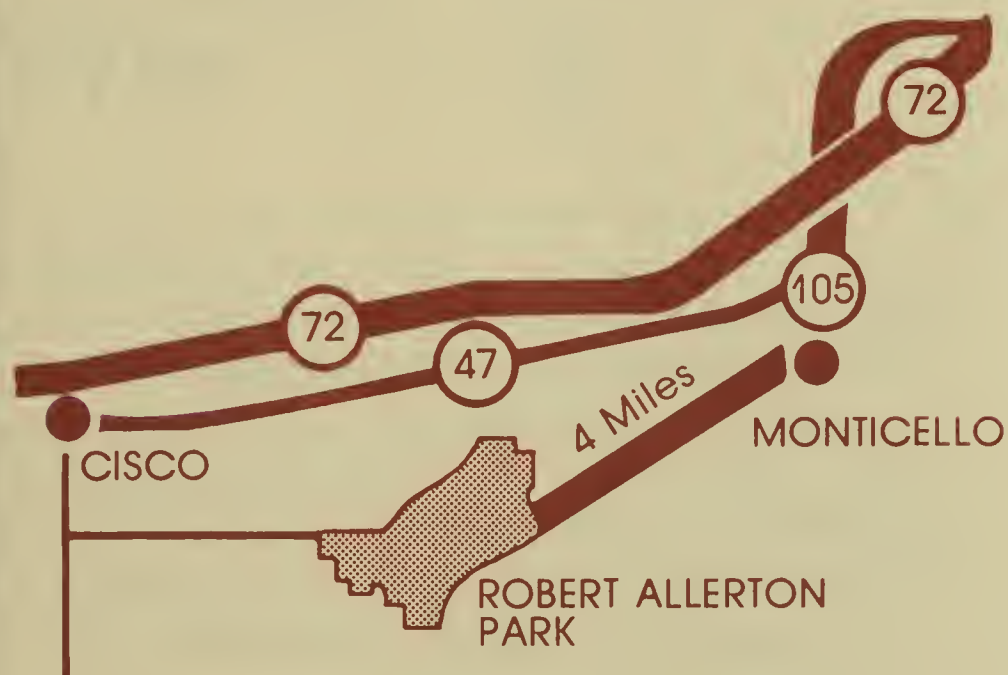
Moving north is Bath, hidden river country on the east fork of Grand Island which divides the Illinois River.

Moving north is Havana, an old river town and a hub for routes to Petersburg and historic and scenic New Salem; Dickson Mounds; Mason State Tree Nursery and Sand Ridge State Forest; and the Spoon River Drive.

ROBERT ALLERTON PARK

Champaign County

Located southwest of Monticello (Piatt County), Illinois, Robert Allerton Park is unique to the prairie landscape of central Illinois and the central Midwest. The Sangamon River divides the 1,494-acre park into two sections. The 40-room Georgian mansion used for conferences, the additional 250 acre gift for the 4-H Memorial Camp, the formal gardens with extensive ornaments and sculptures are set in woodland and meadows north of the river. Native forests and a 50-acre restored prairie can be seen by hiking the many trails south of the Sangamon.



BEARDSTOWN

Cass County

In the Fall, Cass County is a sight to behold as the view changes from agricultural fields at harvest time to the brilliantly colored, tree-lined country roads.

Beardstown is located on Route 125 & U.S. Route 67. From Beardstown, travel east on County Road 7 & 577 (Chandlerville Road) and see some of the most beautiful Illinois River bottomland for some 15 miles to Chandlerville.

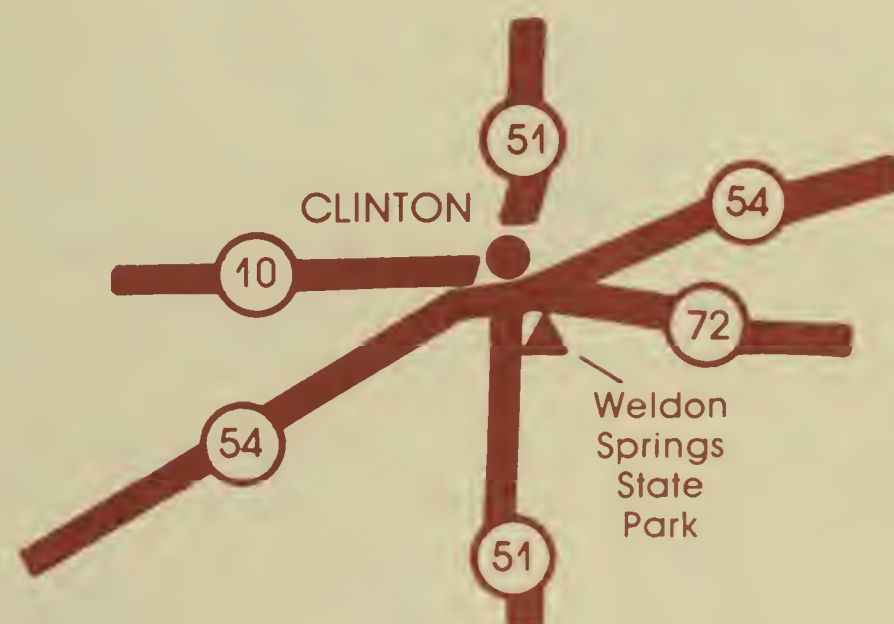


Five miles east of Beardstown on Illinois Route 125 is the small town of Bluff Springs. A traveler can turn either right or left on the Bluff Springs Road. Turn right (south) and have fun on country roads some 15 miles to Arenzville. At Bluff Springs, turn left (north) on County Road 5 to County Road 7 & 577 and move east to Chandlerville.

CLINTON

DeWitt County

Weldon Springs State Park is five miles southeast of Clinton. A 28-acre, spring-fed lake is surrounded by oak and maple trees. Boats are available, reflection in the lake is absolutely beautiful. Many nature trails of varying lengths await the amateur and experienced hiker.



Six miles east of Clinton on Route 54 in Birkbeck area is the Clinton Lake Recreational Area — a 4900 acre impoundment and 130 miles of shoreline. It has a 12-mile hiking trail with access to the prairie restoration area

DANVILLE

Vermilion County

What to see and do for fun in Vermilion County

The Vermilion County Museum at 116 North Gilbert in Danville has an herb garden worth seeing. Dr. William Fithian once owned the property and he grew many of the medicinal herbs he prescribed for his patients.

Yesterday lives 10 miles north of Danville. Rossville's stopped the clock. Tree-lined streets and well-kept homes as well as unusual antique shops make any trip to Rossville a memorable journey.

The Middle Fork State Wildlife Area is located 8 miles north of I-74 at Oakwood. The area consists of 3,015 acres and is bound on the east by the Kennekuk Cove County Park. Well-marked scenic hiking trails are easily accessible. Low areas abound in oak, hickory, beech and maple trees.



Kickapoo State Park is 1,685 acres of "resurrected" beauty (a former strip mine). Located west of Danville just north of I-74, Kickapoo is an example of nature's regenerative powers. It now has a scenic growth of cottonwoods, haws, ash and wild cherry. There are 22 ponds within the park.

The Danville Convention & Visitors Bureau has Fall Color Tours available upon request, both of Danville and in the County.

DECATUR

Macon County

Decatur is easy to find, located just halfway between Springfield and Champaign on I-72; 46 miles south of Bloomington on U.S. 51; also Illinois Routes 48 & 121 go through the City. Decatur's 80-acre Historic District is in the National Register.

Decatur is famed for its "in-town" walking tours. Here you will find well-kept and pure architectural styles. Descriptive brochures of five walking tours are available from the Decatur Convention & Visitors Bureau.

On the east side of the Lake and about 1 mile south of U.S. 36 is Scovill Gardens and Zoo. This is a restful area with an abundance of trees and a cliff-type dropoff to the Lake.



On the west side of town is the area influenced by James Millikin. To the west of the University is Fairview Park with its pond, ball diamond, horseshoe pits and tournament tennis courts.

Southwest of Decatur and a short distance from Holiday Inn is the Rock Springs Center for Environmental Discovery — a 1,000 acre site along the wooded bluffs overlooking the Sangamon River.

LAKE SHELBYVILLE

Shelby County

Lake Shelbyville is located 31 miles southeast of Decatur. It is 51 miles long and has a 250 mile shore line. The walker, bicycle rider, horse back rider, and auto traveler will find all types of trails and roads to travel to see the natural beauty of this lake, built in the valleys of Central Illinois.

PARIS

Edgar County

Welcome to Paris!

Driving south on Illinois Route 1 to Paris, cross over the Twin Lakes bridge (West lake on the right; East lake on the left) and proceed a few short yards to the entrance to Twin Lakes Park; turn right (west) and follow the circular drive through the Park noting the panoramic view as you drive (end at the entrance where you began). Continue south on Route 1 to the Paris Square where Paris' beautiful Courthouse (listed on the National Register) stands. At Court Street (SW corner of the Square) turn right (west) and drive past the stately older homes lining the street to Jefferson. At Jefferson Street, turn left (south) for one block to Washington Street. Turn left (east) on Washington and follow to Main Street (3rd stop sign). Turn left (north) on Main Street and go two blocks — past the Edgar County Courthouse again — to Wood Street. Turn right (east) on Wood Street and enjoy the breath-taking colors as you continue for approximately six blocks to Manier Street. Turn left (north) onto Manier for one block. At the stop sign, turn right (east) onto Clinton Road.



Proceed down Clinton Road for approximately 1 mile to the entrance of the Sycamore Hills Country Club and Golf Course. Continue the peaceful drive through the greens and hills of this country setting bringing you to Wood Street. Continue west up Wood Street back to the Paris Square. At the Square (corner of Wood and Main Streets), turn right (north) to head back North on Illinois Route 1. Come and visit again real soon!

PONTIAC

Livingston County

Interstate 55 (at Exit 197) and Illinois 116 both lead to Pontiac.

The interchange at I-55 and Route 116 is the starting point for a color tour of the Pontiac area. Take Reynolds Street at the intersections straight east across the railroad tracks to the first stop sign. Turn left (north) on Vermilion Street and go to Grove Street. Turn right (east) onto Grove Street, a magnificent tree-lined street which displays fall colors. Keep driving east on Grove Street where you will enter the first park which is filled with old oak trees. Park your car near the two swinging foot bridges. Walk across the bridge and roam around the hardwood forest of the historic Chautauqua Park.



Back at your car, leave the park by traveling west to Mill Street, turn right on Mill Street and cross the Vermilion River. At the stop sign, turn right onto Water Street, another beautiful tree-lined street. Follow Water Street to Riverside Street which is just west of Pontiac's modern hospital. Turn left (north) on Riverside Street and travel two blocks to Madison Street and turn left (west). Notice the venerable homes among the branching oaks. Madison Street will take you through Pontiac's famous "uptown section" where it's "square" and brightly painted, well-known County Courthouse is located. Continue west on Madison Street and arrive at beautifully colored, peaceful, tree-filled Fell's Park. After a visit to Fell's Park, drive west on Madison across the railroad tracks to the Ladd Street stop sign. I-55 or Route 116 is just a left turn away.

Northwest of Pontiac is Humiston Wood Nature Center. Two hundred seventy-seven acres of hardwoods along the bluffs of the Vermilion River provide a scenic stop. A special concrete trail is available for wheelchair visitors. A five-acre prairie field can be enjoyed.

SPRINGFIELD

Sangamon County

Springfield is located on I-55 and I-72; and U.S. Route 36, and Illinois Routes 4, 29, 54, 97, 124 & 125.

During September and October when colors in Central Illinois are at their best, Springfield and the surrounding area offer a variety of exceptional hiking or driving tours. Use the City of Springfield and its many historic attractions as a starting point for options that include a combination of driving and hiking trails around Lake Springfield, stops at several of Springfield's beautiful parks and a scenic drive to New Salem State Park.

Lake Springfield, located southeast of the city, is a 4,235-acre lake with over 57 miles of beautiful shoreline. It is possible to just drive around the Lake stopping occasionally at the various small lake-side parks that dot this magnificent man-made body of water. Two wildlife sanctuaries provide the perfect setting for leisurely hikes. Lincoln Memorial Garden, located at 2301 East Lake Drive, features 5 miles of trails through rich woodland and prairie openings. The Lake Springfield Wildlife

Sanctuary Trail is a 1¾ mile nature trail along Lake Springfield which circles through a 455-acre sanctuary and includes picnic areas.



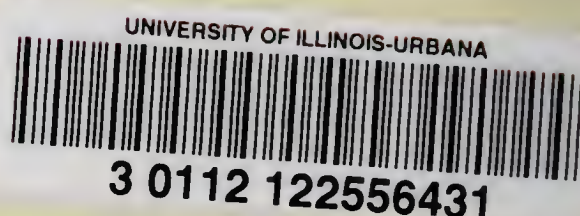
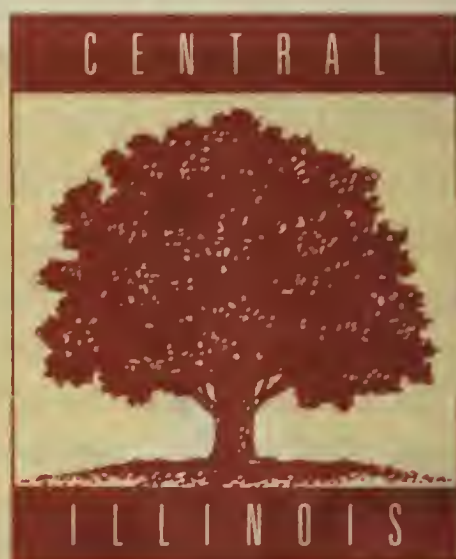
Several of the larger parks in Springfield include: 150-acre Washington Park which offers a variety of recreational opportunities. This area is also the site of the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon and the district's horticultural center. Lincoln Park is an 88-acre complex on the north side of the city. Carpenter & Gurgens Parks are adjacent to each other and are both located along the Sangamon River. They join to form a 694 acre wilderness area with maintained trails and picnic areas.

New Salem State Park is 20 miles northwest of Springfield on Route 97. The spectacular fall colors are magnificently enhanced by the roughly primitive buildings of aging logs.

It is impossible to predict the peak of the fall color season. To ensure an enjoyable and beautiful trip, please contact the local Chamber of Commerce of each city for the most recent update on the fall colors as well as other sites to see in the area.

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Illinois, you put me
in a happy state.



Department of Commerce and
Community Affairs
Illinois Office of Tourism
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